Irregularities in IRCON

2901. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gross irregularities have taken place in IRCON, involving its former MD;

(b) if so, the details of such irregularities;

(c) whether it is a fact that the CVC has recommended action against the former MD of IRCON; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Investigation has revealed that the former MD/IRCON was responsible for some irregularities in award of some contracts by IRCON for execution of the Pelabuhan-Tanjung-Pelepas project in Malaysia.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Action has been initiated as advised by CVC and disciplinary proceedings are under way.

Expansion of Railways in Chhattisgarh

†2902. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and details of railway construction and expansion proposals, pending with Chhattisgarh Government for acquiring land and providing the same to Railways;

(b) since when these have been pending;

(c) the amount sought by the State Government for the same; and

(d) the details of problems arising for providing land immediately?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (d) The project-wise details of proposals for land acquisition submitted to State Government are as under:—

1. New line from Bishrampur to Ambikapur—Two proposals for land acquisition measuring 30.173 hectare of forest land and 7.51 hectare of private/Government land have been submitted on 15.2.2002 and 30.10.2001 respectively. Rs.1.87 crore have been paid to the State Government for the forest land and no demand has been received for private/Government land. The environmental clearance is awaited for the forest land.

2. New Zone at Bilaspur—The proposal for acquisition of 141.04 hectare of land was submitted to State Government on 11.12.1999. Rs. 30 lakh demanded by the State Government have already been paid. The location and requirement of land is under review.

Durg-Bhopal-Amarkantak Express

†2903. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to operate Durg-Bhopal-Amarkantak Express *via* Jabalpur on all week days is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, by when it would be implemented and if not, the difficulties therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Daily running of Amarkantak Express is not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.